Card (MNIC) to the citizens in the country. The project envisages providing unique National Identity Number (NIN) to each person in the National Population Register. However, keeping in view the complexities involved both in the processes and technology, a pilot project has been under implementation on an experimental basis covering a population of 30.95 lakhs in the selected areas in 12 States and 1 Union Territory. Under the pilot project, identity (Smart) cards are being issued to the citizens of age 18 years and above.

The production and distribution of identity cards has been undertaken through Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). This was to be completed by July, 2007. But due to time taken in sourcing of raw materials and stabilization of rejects during personalisation, this has taken time and will be completed by March, 2008.

It is proposed to decide on the implementation of the scheme in the entire country in the light of the experiences gained and lessons learnt from the pilot project.

Representations from Kerala not to deport Pakistani citizens

151. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many representations from Kerala, not to deport Pakistani citizens who are staying with their relatives for quite long time;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to allow the above Pakistanis to stay with their relatives;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the competent authority would take a sympathetic view on the above representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) A number of persons from Kerala who had gone to Pakistan after the partition returned back to India at different points of time on Pakistani Passports in order to join their family members. Cases have been filed individually in the Courts in Kerala for determination of their nationality status for grant of Indian citizenship u/s 9(2) of Indian Citizenship Act, 1955 and in most of such cases stay has been obtained from High Court of Kerala against their deportation. In the meantime the matter was considered by the Government and orders were issued on 01/11/2000 which were modified *vide* order dated 31/8/2005 regarding grant of Long Term Visa (LTV) to such Pak nationals who re-entered Kerala at different points of time subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions so as to enable them to apply for Indian Citizenship as per rules.

Attack on North Indians in Mumbai

152. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many North Indians have been attacked and intimidated and their properties damaged in Mumbai by particular groups of people;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and estimated loss of damage of property so far;

(c) whether Central Government has consulted the Advocate General on the legality of action taken against those responsible for damaging properties; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and action proposed to be taken against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) According to available information, in the wake of efforts by some activists of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) to create disturbaces in a political rally in Mumbai on 3rd February, 2008, a number of incidents of demonstrations, burning the effigies of political leaders, pelting of stones on/damage of buses and other vehicles, and damage to private and public properties took place in Mumbai and some other parts of Maharashtra during the first to third weeks of February, 2008. According to the information provided by the State Government, there were 336 incidents during this period, of which there were 8 incidents of assault on North Indian labourers/ workers and some cases of damage to property like shops, stalls, handcarts, etc., in which 8-10 persons are reported to have been injured, and properties worth of Rs. 5 lakh belonging to the North Indians were damaged. Further, properties approximately of Rs. 18 lakhs were also damaged as a result of stone pelting on buses and other Govt. vehicles.

(c) and (d) As 'Public order' is a State subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the action required to be taken and its legality and other aspects, with respect to any such incident is for the State Govt. to take. The State Govt. has informed that in 336 offences registered in the State of Maharashtra, 1575 persons were arrested for substantive offences in addition to preventive action against 5159 persons.

Spurt in terrorism

153. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorism has increased considerably in the country; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the spurt in the terrorism has been attributed to failure on the part of security agencies to do their home work and provide adequate inputs;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to restructure the security agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) It is not a fact that terrorism has increased considerably in the country, or that there has been any spurt in terrorism on account of the failure of the security agencies to provide adequate inputs. Although violence and militancy has continued in some parts of the country, the overall situation has remained largely in control. In fact, there has been a significant improvement in so far as the situation in Jammu & Kashmir is concerned, and even in the North Eastern Region, the situation has improved considerably in some States such as Tripura and Meghalaya, while co-ordinated measures are being taken to check and control the activities of militant groups in the other affected States in the region viz., Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. In the naxal affected areas also the overall level of extremist violence has, more or less, remained at a similar level in the last few years and, has in fact shown improvement in a number of areas, but for a few major incidents in